Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A heatstake for fastening a workpiece, comprising:

~~a base portion;~~

first and second concentrically disposed shaft portions, the first shaft portion having a leading end and a length greater than a length of the second shaft portion;

a central passage extending through the first and second shaft portions; and

a plurality of slots disposed about an outer surface of the second shaft portion having a predefined angular separation, the plurality of slots defining a plurality of fastening portions when the second shaft portion is deformed,

wherein the first shaft portion applies pressure against the fastening portions of the second shaft portion when the first shaft portion is deformed, and

wherein said fastening portions of said second shaft portion engages said workpiece when said second shaft portion is deformed.

2. (Original) The heatstake according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of slots comprises at least three slots.

3. (Original) The heatstake according to Claim 2, wherein the predefined angular separation is approximately 120 degrees.

4. (Previously Presented) The heatstake according to Claim 1, wherein the fastening portions of the second shaft portion form a geometric configuration in the form of a rosette or flower shape.

5. (Currently Amended) A heatstake for fastening a workpiece, comprising:

~~a base portion;~~

a first shaft portion including a first leading end and a first central passage;

a second shaft portion including a second leading end, a second central passage, and a plurality of slots disposed about an outer surface having a predefined angular separation, the plurality of slots defining a plurality of fastening portions when the second shaft portion is deformed,

wherein the first shaft portion is generally concentrically disposed about the second central passage of the second shaft portion such that the first shaft portion applies pressure against the fastening portions of the second shaft portion when the first shaft portion is deformed, and

wherein said fastening portions of said second shaft portion engages said workpiece when said second shaft portion is deformed.

6. (Original) The heatstake according to Claim 5, wherein the first shaft portion has an outer diameter less than an inner diameter of the second shaft portion.

7. (Original) The heatstake according to Claim 5, wherein the plurality of slots comprises at least three slots.

8. (Original) The heatstake according to Claim 7, wherein the predefined angular separation is approximately 120 degrees.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of deforming a heatstake in a controlled fashion, the heatstake comprising a base portion, first and second concentrically disposed shaft portions, the first shaft portion having a leading end and a length greater than the second shaft portion, a central passage extending through the first and second shaft portions, and a plurality of slots disposed about an outer surface of the second shaft portion having a predefined angular separation, the plurality of slots defining a plurality of fastening portions when the second shaft portion is deformed, the method comprising the steps of:

deforming the first shaft portion vertically downward and radially outward about a vertical axis of the first shaft portion such that the first shaft portion ~~applies pressure against the fastening portions of the second shaft portion to~~ positively engages a workpiece, and

deforming the second shaft portion such that the fastening portion of the second shaft portion positively engages the workpiece.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the fastening portions define a geometric configuration in the form of a rosette or flower shape.

11. (New) The heatstake according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second shaft portions define a gap therebetween.

12. (New) The heatstake according to Claim 5, further comprising a gap between an outer diameter of said first shaft portion and an inner diameter of said second shaft portion.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising a gap between an outer diameter of said first shaft portion and an inner diameter of said second shaft portion.

14. (New) The heatstake according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second shaft portions are made of thermoplastic material.

15. (New) The heatstake according to Claim 5, wherein said first and second shaft portions are made of thermoplastic material.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said first and second shaft portions are made of thermoplastic material.